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ADAPTED FROM THE CLASSIC NOVEL BY H. RIDER HAGGARD

SHE

SHE
ALL NEW
MARVEL
CLASSICS
COMICS



FBSan

STAN LEE presents

SHE

by H. Rider Haggard

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sir Henry Rider Haggard was born in Bradenham Hall, Norfolk England in 1856. After attending school, he studied law and in 1877 became a master of the High Court of England during the first annexation of the Transvaal. He remained there for a number of years enjoying a successful career. However, with the eventual and not wholly unexpected cession of that land to the Dutch, Haggard returned to England. Upon arriving in his homeland, he began to read for the bar. Several years later Haggard took up the lucrative practice of novel writing and later composed many articles and books on nonfictional subjects of topical interest in his day. The concept of land and its ownership was given excellent coverage in a two volume work entitled: *Rural England* (1902). Pursuing this subject area he later wrote *The Poor and the Land* (1905) which dealt with an in-depth probe into colonial land settlement, that actually contained an overall detailed plan for national land settlement in Great Britain.

Prior to his work on land discussions, Haggard had written a number of highly popular adventure

novels upon which his reputation is justly based. Haggard had travelled to exotic locales in the world and had been inspired by various habitats which formed the setting for many of his novels. Haggard was also a student of history, and two of his fictional works *Dawn* (1884) and *The Witches Head* (1885) pertained to the British defeat at Isandhlwana.

Africa held particular fascination of Haggard. *King Solomon's Mines* (1886) was inspired by the Zimbabwe ruins and three other novels: *Jess* (1887) and *Alain Quartermain* were also set in African climes. Perhaps the most famous of these rousing adventure yarns: *She* (1887) was also placed in the Dark Continent. These novels exhibit a simplicity of approach and poignancy of style that makes them unforgettable treasures to readers. His narrative technique is still as fresh today as it was over one-hundred years ago.

In 1912, Haggard received the singular honor of being knighted in England. And on May 14, 1925 he died.

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IT IS A STRANGE AND WONDERFUL TALE I TELL...
SO MUCH SO THAT I AM ALMOST ASHAMED TO
SET IT FORTH LEST YOU DISBELIEVE ME.

BUT EVERY-
THING FEEL-
GAINED IN THE
ACCOMPANYING
MANUSCRIPT,
IS EXACTLY
AS IT HAPPENED

ADAPTED FROM
THE NOVEL BY
**H. RIDER
HAGGARD**

AS TO SHE HERSELF,
I HAVE NOTHING TO
ADD. DAY BY DAY, I HAVE
GREATER OCCASION TO
REGRET THAT WE DID NOT
BETTER AVAIL OURSELVES
OF OUR OPPORTUNITY TO
LEARN THE SECRETS OF
THAT MARVELOUS WOMAN!

--L. HORACE HOLLY

SHE

THERE ARE EVENTS WHICH SEEM TO BE
GRAVEN ON THE MEMORY IN SUCH A
MANNER THAT WE CANNOT FORGET
THEM. SO IT IS IN THIS CASE...

"I HAD BEEN
STUDYING,
PREPARING FOR
MY FELLOW-
SHIP EXAM
IN ANOTHER
WEEK, WHEN
I FOUND
MYSELF NEED-
ING A RESPIRE.



WELL, IT IS TO
BE HOPED THAT I
SHALL BE ABLE TO
DO SOMETHING WITH
THE INSIDE OF MY
HEAD.



IT IS CLEAR THAT I
SHALL CERTAINLY NEVER
DO ANYTHING BY HELP OF THE
OUTSIDE OF IT, SO, BACK
TO YOUR BOOKS, EH?

BUT, SUDDENLY...

NOK
NOK
NOK



HELLO? WHO'S THERE?
IF YOU'VE COME TO
BOTHER ME AT THIS
UNBODILY HOUR--?

HOLLY-- IT'S ME.
LET ME IN... I COUGH
I COUGH.

WHY DO YOU KEEP ME
STANDING HERE IN THE
COLD? I KOP, I KOP!

YOU KNOW THESE
DRAUGHTS ARE DEATH
TO ME!



I DIDN'T KNOW
WHO IT WAS.
YOU ARE A LATE
VISITOR.

YES, AND, VERILY,
I BELIEVE IT TO
BE MY LAST
VISIT.



I AM DONE
FOR, HOLLY. DONE
FOR! I DO NOT
BELIEVE I WILL
SEE TOMORROW!

NONSENSE!
SIT DOWN! I SHALL
SUMMON A DOCTOR
AT ONCE.



BAN! WHAT I SAY IS SOPER SENSE. BUT I WANT NO DOCTORS! I HAVE STUDIED MEDICINE AND I KNOW ALL ABOUT MY AILMENT! NO DOCTORS CAN HELP ME.

BUT, NOW LISTEN TO ME!



WE HAVE BEEN FRIENDS FOR TWO YEARS, YOU AND I. NOW MIGHT YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?

I KNOW THAT YOU ARE RICH AND HAVE HAD A FANCY TO COME TO COLLEGE LONG AFTER THE AGE MOST MEN LEAVE IT.



I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN MARRIED AND THAT YOUR WIFE DIED.

AND I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN THE BEST-- INDEED, ALMOST THE ONLY-- FRIEND I HAVE EVER MADE.



WHAT YOU DO NOT KNOW IS THAT I HAVE A SON. MY WIFE DIED GIVING HIM BIRTH. AS A RESULT I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO BEAR SEEING HIM. HOLLY, I WISH TO LEAVE THE BOY AS YOUR WARD!

WHAT? ME?

I HAVE STUDIED YOU FOR TWO YEARS NOW, KNOWING I WOULD NOT LAST, HAVING CONTRACTED A SLOW, FATAL DISEASE.



THIS BOY SHALL BE THE ONLY REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ANCIENT FAMILY FOR I CAN TRACE MY LINEAR ANCESTRY UNBROKEN, TO ANCIENT EGYPT--

--TO A PRIEST OF 1518 NAMED KALLIKRATES.



I HAVE NOT SEEN THE BOY SINCE HE WAS A BABY, BUT THEY TELL ME HE IS A **GUICK** AND HANDSOME CHILD.

IN THIS ENVELOPE I HAVE PUT DOWN THE COURSE I WISH YOU TO TAKE REGARDING THE **BOY'S** EDUCATION.



MY PRESENT INCOME IS TWO THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED A YEAR. HALF THAT HAS BEEN SECURED FOR YOU FOR LIFE.

THE REST IS TO ACCUMULATE IN TRUST UNTIL THE BOY IS TWENTY-FIVE. THAT IS WHEN YOUR GUARDIANSHIP ENDS.



AT THAT TIME, WITH THE KEYS I WILL GIVE YOU, YOU WILL OPEN THE IRON BOX HERE AND LET HIM SEE AND READ THE CONTENTS. THEY PROPOSE A... **QUEST.**

HE MUST CHOOSE THEN WHETHER HE IS WILLING TO UNDERTAKE SAME. HE IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION.



IN A FEW WEEKS YOU WILL BECOME A FELLOW OF THIS COLLEGE. YOUR INCOME, COMBINED WITH THE ALLOTMENT MY WILL PROVIDES, WILL ALLOW YOU TO LIVE IN LEARNED LEISURE, AS WILL SUIT YOU.

IT WOULD BE THE VERY BEST FOR YOU. SWEAR THAT YOU WILL ACCEPT THIS TASK, MY FRIEND.



YES-- ALL RIGHT, I WILL. I SWEAR IT!

THANK YOU, HOLLY. YOU WILL BE PAID AND I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU. BUT DO NOT BETRAY MY TRUST... LEAST I REACH OUT FROM THE GRAVE.

"IN THE MORNING, VINCEY
WAS FOUND IN HIS ROOMS
-- DEAD. IT GREATLY
QUITE A STRIKE, BUT HE WAS
KNOWN TO BE VERY ILL--
THERE WAS NO INQUEST."

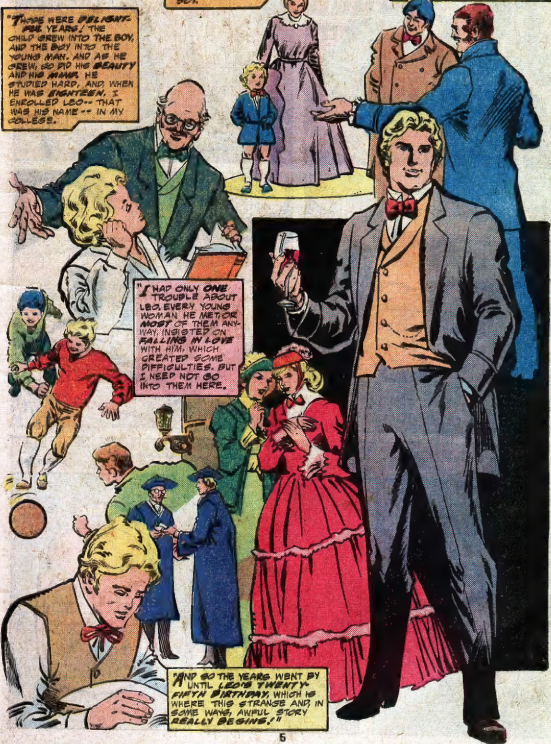
"WHILE THE COLLEGE DID STRETCH
ITS REGULATIONS SOMEWHAT, ALLOW-
ING ME TO TAKE ON A CHILD DURING MY
FELLOWSHIP, I WAS FORCED TO SEEK
MORE SPACIOUS ROOMS OFF CAMPUS.
THIS I DID IN SHORT ORDER, AS WELL AS
FINDING A GOOD MANSERVANT, NAMED
JOHN, TO HELP ME
LOOK AFTER THE
BOY."

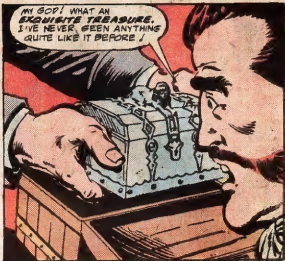
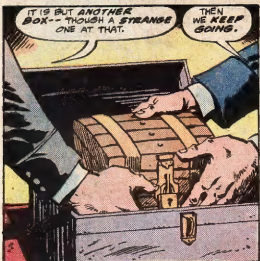
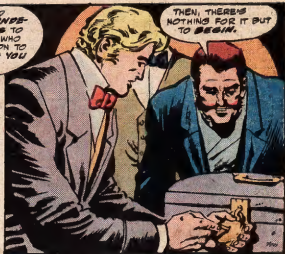
"AT LENGTH, THE BOY ARRIVED,
AND A BEAUTIFUL BOY HE WAS.
INDEED, I DON'T BELIEVE I EVER
SAW SUCH A BEAUTIFUL BOY
BEFORE OR SINCE. AND THOUGH
THOSE FIRST FEW MOMENTS
WERE AWKWARD, HE SOON
BECAME USED TO BOTH HIS
SURROUNDINGS -- AND ME."

"THERE WERE DELICIOUS
FOR YEARS, THE
CHILD GREW INTO THE BOY,
AND THE BOY INTO THE
YOUNG MAN. AND AS HE
GREW, SO DID HIS BEAUTY
AND HIS MIND. HE
STUDIED HARD, AND WHEN
HE WAS EIGHTEEN, I
ENROLLED LEO-- THAT
WAS HIS NAME -- IN MY
COLLEGE."

"I HAD ONLY ONE
TROUBLE ABOUT
LEO. EVERY YOUNG
WOMAN HE MET OR
MOST OF THEM ANY-
WAY, INSISTED ON
FALLING IN LOVE
WITH HIM, WHICH
GREATLY SOME
DIFFICULTIES. BUT
I KNEW NOT GO
INTO THEM HERE."

"AND SO THE YEARS WENT BY
UNTIL LEO'S TWENTY-
FIFTH BIRTHDAY, WHICH IS
WHERE THIS STRANGE AND, IN
SOME WAYS, AWKWARD STORY
REALLY BEGINS."

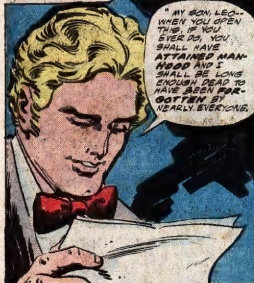




"WHAT WE FOUND IN THAT SILVER GASKET, ASIDE FROM A **LETTER** MARKED BY OLD VINCEY FOR LEO, FORMED A CURIOUS **PUZZLE**. INDEED THERE WAS A **ROLLED-UP PARCHMENT**, A SMALL **POTSHARD** WITH WRITING ON IT AND A SMALL **SCARAB STONE** WITH SYMBOLS MEANING '**ROYAL SON OF RA**.'"



"HAVING DISCLOSED THE ENTIRE CONTENTS OF THE CASSET, LEO BEGAN WITH THE LETTER FROM HIS FATHER."



"MY SON, LEO-- WHEN YOU OPEN THIS, IF YOU EVER DO, YOU SHALL HAVE ATTAINED MANHOOD AND I SHALL BE LONG ENOUGH DEAD TO HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN BY NEARLY EVERYONE."

"HOLLY, MY FRIEND, WILL HAVE TOLD YOU SOMETHING OF THE EXTRAORDINARY ANTIQUITY OF YOUR ANCESTRY. THE CONTENTS OF THIS CASSET SHALL PROVE IT."



THE STRANGE LEGEND INSCRIBED UPON THE POTSHEDD OF YOUR ANCIENT ANCESTRESS WAS TOLD ME BY MY FATHER ON HIS DEATHBED AND IT CAPTURED MY IMAGINATION."

"WHEN I WAS ONLY 19 YEARS OF AGE, I SET OUT TO VERIFY THIS LEGEND."

"ON THE COAST OF AFRICA, IN A HITHERTO UNEXPLORED REGION, THERE IS A CURIOUS PEAK WHICH TOWERED UP IN THE SHAPE OF A HEAD."

"THERE I LANDED AND I LEARNT FROM A WANDERING NATIVE THAT FAR INLAND WERE MOUNTAINS SHAPED LIKE CURB, SURROUNDED BY VAST SWAMP- LAND."

"AND I LEARNT THAT PEOPLE THERE SPEAK A DIALECT OF ARABIC AND ARE RULED BY A BEAUTIFUL WHITE WOMAN WITH POWER OVER LIFE AND DEATH."

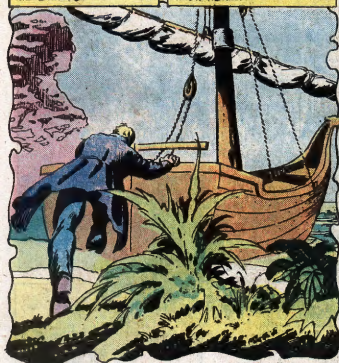


"TWO DAYS AFTERWARDS, THE MAN DIED OF FEVER CONTRACTED IN CROSSING THE SWAMPS."

"I WAS FORCED BY LACK OF PROVISIONS AND SYMPTOMS OF ILLNESS TO TAKE TO MY KNOX AGAIN."

"OF THE ADVENTURES WHICH BEFELL ME AFTER THIS, I NEED NOT SPEAK IN ENGLAND. I SET TO WORK TO MASTER ARABIC IN HOPES THAT MY HEALTH WOULD RETURN, THAT I MIGHT TAKE UP THE QUEST."

"IT DID NOT. I DID NOT. FOR ME, THE STORY IS DONE."



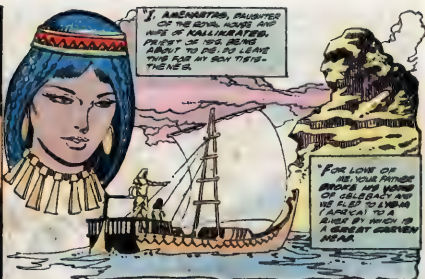
"FOR YOU, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT ENDED. YOU MUST JUDGE FOR YOURSELF THE VALIDITY OF THIS. I DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS A FABLE. IF YOU CHOOSE TO AGREE, I HAVE PROVIDED THAT YOU WON'T WANT FOR MEANS. BUT IF YOU ARE SATISFIED IT IS A MERE CHIMERA, DESTROY ALL I HAVE GIVEN YOU. PERHAPS THAT IS WISEST. FOR IF YOU DO TAKE UP THE QUEST, REMEMBER ONE THING ALWAYS--HE WHO WOULD TAMPER WITH THE VAST AND SECRET FORCES THAT ANIMATE THE EARTH MAY WELL FALL VICTIM TO THEM. --FAREWELL!"



"WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE HE MEANT BY THAT, UNCLE HOLLY?"

"I SUPPOSE THE TRANSLATION OF THE POTSHERD WILL TELL MORE."

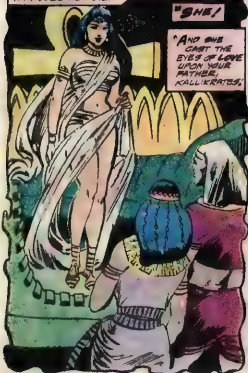
"BUT IT ALL SOUNDS LIKE RUBBISH--THE PHANTOMS OF A DESERTED MAN AT HIS END, POOR FELLOW."



"AND THEY BROUGHT US TO THEIR QUEEN, WHO
IS A MAGICIAN HAVING A KNOWLEDGE
OF ALL THINGS, AND LIFE AND LOVELINESS
THAT DOES NOT DIE.

"SHE!

"AND SHE
CAST THE
EYES OF LOVE
UPON YOUR
FATHER,
KALLIKRATES."



"THEN DID SHE TAKE US AND LEAD US
BY MEANS OF DARK MAGIC
TO WHERE THE GREAT PIT IS..."



"... AND SHOWED
US THE ROLLING
PILLAR OF LIFE
THAT DIES NOT..."



"... AND SHE
DID STAND
IN THE FLAMES..."



"... AND CAME FORTH UNHARM-
ED AND YET MORE BEAUTI-
FUL..."



"THEN DID SHE
SWEAR TO
MAKE THY
FATHER AS
JUDGING AS
SHE IF HE
WOULD BUT
GIVE HIMSELF
TO HER..."



"... PROVING HIS DEVOTION BY
SLAYING ME!"

"BUT HE HELD HIS HANDS BEFORE HIS EYES TO IMPE HER BEAUTY AND WOULD NOT."



"AND GOD DID MELLISH RAGE CONSUME HER..."



"...AND IN HER RAGE DID SHE SMITE HIM BY HER MAGIC AND HE DIED."



"YET, SHE WEPT OVER HIM AND BORE HIM THENCE WITH LAMENTATIONS."



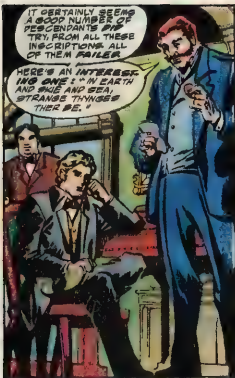
"I ESCAPED AND FLED TO THE MOUTH OF THE GREAT RIVER WHERE THE SHIPS CAME AND IT WAS ON ONE OF THOSE SHIPS THAT I GAVE YOU BIRTH."

"AT LAST I CAME AND SETTLED IN ATHENS. NOW I SAY TO THEE, MY SON, SEEK OUT THIS WOMAN AND LEARN THE SECRET OF LIFE."



"AND IF YOU HAVEST FEAR A WAY, SLAY HER FOR YOUR FATHER. AND IF YOU FAUL, MAY ALL WHO FOLLOW IN YOUR LINE TRY UNTIL ONE SUCCEEDS--"

"...FOR WE SHALL SIT ON THE THRONE OF THE PHARMACEUTS"



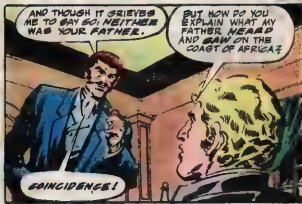
IT CERTAINLY SEEMS
A GOOD NUMBER OF
PESCEPANTS ~~W~~
TRY, FROM ALL THESE
INSCRIPTIONS, ALL
OF THEM ~~PA~~

HERE'S AN INTEREST
ING ONE: "IN EARTH
AND SKY AND SEA,
STRANGE THINGS
THER BE."



BUT IF YOU WOULD KNOW,
I THINK IT IS ALL RUBBISH!
THAT THIS POTHEP
HAS BEEN ~~W~~
SINCE ANCIENT TIMES,
I DO NOT DISPUTE.

BUT THERE I STOP, THIS
EGYPTIAN PRINCESS, AFTER
LOSING HER HUSBAND, WAS
NOT IN HER RIGHT MIND.



AND THOUGH IT GRIEVES
ME TO SAY SO, NEITHER
WAS YOUR FATHER.

BUT HOW DO YOU
EXPLAIN WHAT MY
FATHER HEARD
AND SAW ON THE
COAST OF AFRICA?

COINCIDENCE!



NO DOUBT THERE IS JUST SUCH
A ROCK FORMATION ON THE
COAST OF AFRICA, AND A LOT
OF PEOPLES THERE SPEAK
VARIATIONS OF ARABIC.

AND I DARE SAY
AFRICA HAS QUITE A
NUMBER OF MARSH-
LANDS.

PERHAPS YOU ARE
RIGHT, I HAVE NO
OPINION.



I INTEND TO SET
THE MATTER TO REST
ONCE AND FOR ALL, AND
IF YOU DO NOT GO
WITH ME, I WILL GO
ALONE.

AND, EVEN IF I DON'T
FIND THE "ROLLING
PILLAR OF LIFE", I
SHALL AT LEAST
ENJOY SOME FIRST
CLASS SHOOTING.



GAME SHOOTING. YES, I
HADN'T CONSIDERED THAT.
OH, VERY WELL, I THINK IT'S
ALL BOSH-- BUT IT WILL BE
AN ADVENTURE!

AND SO IT WAS THAT,
IN THREE MONTHS
TIME, WE WERE ON
THE OCEAN BOUND
FOR ZANZIBAR.

NOW DIFFERENT A
SETTING THIS WAS.
GONE THE QUIET COLLEGE
ROOMS, THE WIND-SWAYED
ENGLISH BLIND, REPLACED
BY A GREAT OCEAN BLEAK-
ING IN SHAPED SILVER
LIGHTS BENEATH A FULL
AFRICAN MOON.

TOMORROW, BY TEN,
IF THE CAPTAIN IS NOT
OUT ON HIS RECKONING,
WE SHOULD MAKE THIS
"MAN" BOAT
WHERE WE CAN BEGIN
OUR SHOOTING.

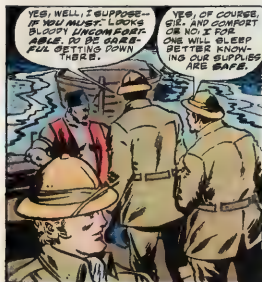
TO BEGIN LOOKING
FOR THE FINE OF LIFE;
DON'T YOU MEAN,
UNCLE!

HAH!

"THE WHALEBOAT, I SHOULD
EXPLAIN, WAS SPECIALLY
BUILT FOR US AT DUNDEE IN
SCOTLAND. WE KNEW THAT THIS
COAST IS A NETWORK OF
GROVES AND WE NEEDED
SOMETHING THAT COULD
NAVIGATE THEM.

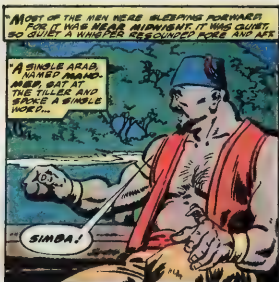
"IT WAS SPECIALLY
EQUIPPED WITH WATER-
TIGHT STORAGE COM-
PARTMENTS FOR GUNS
AND AMMO AND OTHER SUCH
ESSENTIALS.

SIR, THE WHALE-
BOAT-- I THINK
SOMEONE SHOULD
SLEEP ON IT, TO SAFE-
GUARD ALL OUR GUNS
AND SUPPLIES THERE.



YES, WELL, I SUPPOSE—
IF YOU MUST. LOOKS
BLOODY UNCOMFORT-
ABLE. DO BE CARE-
FUL GETTING DOWN
THERE.

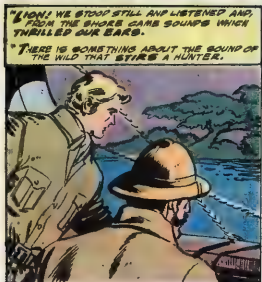
YES, OF COURSE,
SIR. AND COMFORT
OR NO, I FOR
ONE WILL SLEEP
BETTER KNOW-
ING OUR SUPPLIES
ARE SAFE.



"MOST OF THE MEN WERE SLEEPING FORWARD,
FOR IT WAS NEAR MIDNIGHT. IT WAS QUIET,
SO QUIET A WHISPER RESOUNDED FORE AND AFT.

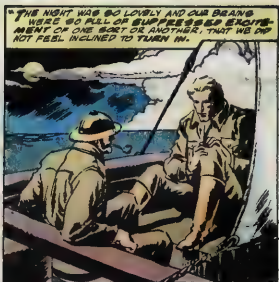
"A SINGLE ARAB,
NAMED MAND-
MED, SAT AT
THE TILLER AND
SPOKE A SINGLE
WORD...

SIMBA!



"LION! WE STOOD STILL AND LISTENED AND,
FROM THE SHORE CAME SOUNDS WHICH
THRILLED OUR EARS.

"THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THE SOUND OF
THE WILD THAT STIRS A HUNTER.



"THE NIGHT WAS SO LOVELY AND OUR BRAINS
WERE SO FULL OF SUPPRESSED EXCITE-
MENT OF ONE SORT OR ANOTHER, THAT WE DID
NOT FEEL INCLINED TO TURN IN.



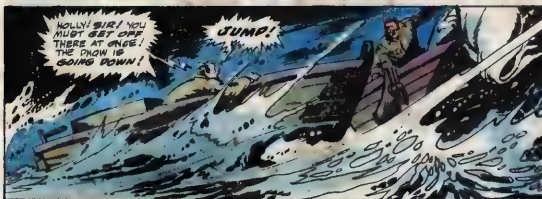
"AT LAST, HOWEVER,
WE DOZED OFF.

"I REMEMBER NOTHING
AFTER THAT, CAPTAIN..."

"A FRIGHTFUL ROAR OF WIND, A SHRIEK OF TERROR FROM THE ANKERING CREW AND A WHIP-LIKE STING OF WATER AGAINST OUR FACES!"



"WE WERE CAUGHT IN THE MIDST OF A VIOLENT SQUALL, WITH WINDS OF TWENTY FEET HIGH. THE SNOW, NOT PREPARED, WAS FILLING WITH WATER FAST."





LOOK OUT!
IT'S ANOTHER ONE!
STEADY YOUR-
SELVES!

WHAT PAINFUL IRONY! YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL LEO
WAS DROWNED WHILE I WAS LEFT ALIVE
TO MOURN HIM.

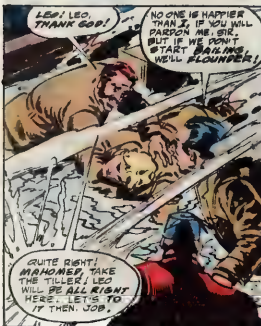


THE BOAT
FILLED QUICK-
LY WITH WATER.
BUT THE BUILT-
IN, WATERTIGHT
COMPARTMENTS
-- GOD BLESS
THE MAN WHO
INVENTED
THEM -- KEPT
US AFLOAT.



THEN, SUDDENLY,
SOMETHING MI-
RACULOUS OCCURRED.

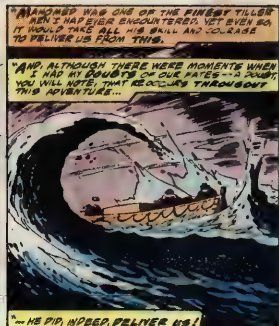
WHAT'S THIS?
SOMEONE WAS BEING
CARRIED IN THE WAKE
OF THE WAVE. HAVE TO
PULL HIM IN!



LEO! LEO,
THANK GOD!

NO ONE IS HAPPIER
THAN I, IF YOU WILL
PARDON ME, SIR,
BUT IF WE DON'T
START BAILING,
WE'LL FLOUNDER!

QUITE RIGHT!
MAHOMED, TAKE
THE TILLER! LEO
WILL BE ALL RIGHT
HERE. LET'S TO
IT THEN, JOE.



MAHOMED WAS ONE OF THE FINEST TILLER
MEN I HAD EVER ENCOUNTERED. YET EVEN SO
IT WOULD TAKE ALL HIS SKILL AND COURAGE
TO DELIVER US FROM THIS.

AND, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE MOMENTS WHEN
I HAD MY DOUBTS OF OUR FATES -- A DOUBT,
YOU WILL NOTE, THAT REOCCURS THROUGHOUT
THIS ADVENTURE...

... HE DID, INDEED, DELIVER US!

"AT LENGTH THE STORM PASSED
AND, SOME HOURS LATER
THE HERALDS OF THE ROYAL
SUN HAD DONE THEIR WORK.



"IT WAS THEN, AS HE
APPROACHED A RIVER MOUTH,
THAT I SPOTTED FOR THESE
QUARRYING THE ENTRANCE WAS
THE NEAR

WHY! IT'S THE HEAD SPOKEN
OF IN THE WRITINGS. THEN
THE WHOLE STORY MUST
BE TRUE.



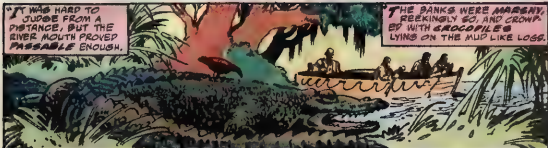
NOT AT ALL.
WE KNEW OF
THE HEAD, YOUR
FATHER SAW
IT. IT PROVES
NOTHING.

HA! HA! THE SKEPTIC
TO THE END, WILL YOU
BELIEVE UPON SEEING THIS
GODDESS WITH YOUR OWN
EYES?



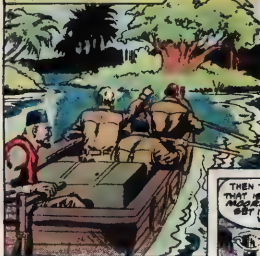
AND NOT
A MOMENT
BEFORE!

"IT WAS HARD TO
JUDGE FROM A
DISTANCE, BUT THE
RIVER MOUTH PROVED
PASSABLE ENOUGH.

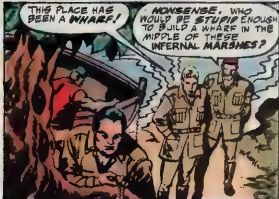


THE BANKS WERE MARENY,
REEKINGLY SO, AND CROWD-
ED WITH GROCIFILES
LYING ON THE MUD LIKE LOGS.

"A MILE OR SO AHEAD OF US, HOWEVER, LAY WHAT
APPEARED TO BE A STRIP OF FIRM LAND
AND FOR THIS WE STEERED



THIS PLACE HAS
BEEN A WHARF!



NONSENSE. WHO
WOULD BE STUPID ENOUGH
TO BUILD A WHARF IN THE
MIDDLE OF THESE
INFERNAL MARSHES?

THEN TELL ME
THAT IS NOT A
MOORING RING
SET INTO STONE-
WORK.



"I WANTED
TO SAY
'NONSENSE'
AGAIN, BUT THE
WORD STUCK
IN MY THROAT.
THERE WAS NO
OTHER EX-
PLANATION.

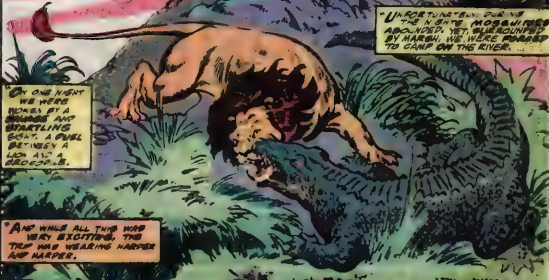


"WE WERE, ALMOST LITERALLY, BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA. RETURNING TO SEA TO SEARCH FOR PORT COULD BE AS RISKY AS CONTINUING UP-RIVER."

"SO ON WE PUSHED. NEVER HAD WE SEEN SUCH WONDERS. WILDLIFE OF ALL MANNER ABOUNDED, OFTEN PROVEING TO BE FAIR GAME FOR OUR GUNS."



"UNFORTUNATELY, DURING THE NIGHT MOSAUN REED ABANDONED US. BUT BOUNDED BY MARSH, WE WERE FORCED TO CAMP ON THE RIVER."



"ON ONE NIGHT WE WERE WOKEN BY A BRUISING AND STARTLING SIGHT. A FUEL BETWEEN A LION AND A GORILLA."

"AND WHILE ALL THIS WAS VERY EXCITING, THE TRIP WAS BECOMING HARDER AND HARDER."



"AT LAST WE TURNED OFF AN ANCIENT CANAL, WHICH ONLY HEADED DEEPER INTO THE MARSHLANDS..."

"...AND I WAS CONVINCED THAT DEATH WAS IN OUR ONLY PRIZE IN THIS AFFAIR."

"ONE NIGHT, WITH THESE MORBID THOUGHTS IN MIND, I AWOKE FROM A DISTURBING DREAM..."

"...THE ONLY DISCOVER EQUALLY DISTURBING REALITY!"



"THEN, IN A TONGUE PERMATIVE OF AEROS..."

PEACE, WE WOULD KNOW WHO YOU ARE WHO COME HITHER ON THE WATER.



WE ARE TRAVELLERS AND COME HERE BY CHANCE.

FATHER?

THEIR COLOR IS WHITE, YOU SHALL SLAY NOT!

WORD WAS BROUGHT TO ME BY SHE WHO MUST BE OBEYED! IF WHITE MEN COME, SLAY NOT. BRING THEM BEFORE ME."



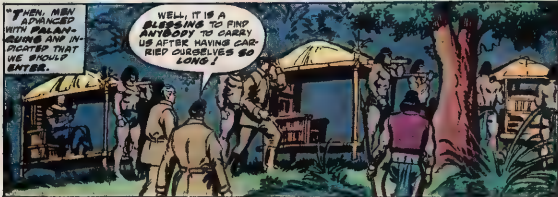
AND THIS ONE? WHAT OF HIM--?

SHE SAID NOTHING OF HIM. BUT NEITHER SLAY HIM. COME, WE MUST GO.



"THEN, MEN ADVANCED WITH PALANQUINS AND INDICATED THAT WE SHOULD ENTER."

WELL, IT IS A BLESSING TO FIND ANYBODY TO CARRY US AFTER HAVING CARRIED OURSELVES SO LONG!



"AS THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO BUT WAIT, I SUG-
GUMBED TO THE RHYTHM OF
THE PALANQUIN AND FELL
INTO SLEEP.

"WHEN I AWOKES, I WAS
GREETED BY A
MAGNIFICENT SIGHT...

"... THE HOME OF THE
ANAHAGGER, AS
I LEARNED THESE
PEOPLE WERE CALLED.

"AS SOON AS WE HAD ALIGNED,
THESE STRANGE PEOPLE GATHERED
UP ABOUT CURIOUSLY, BUT WITH-
OUT EXCITEMENT.

"LEO'S TALL, ATHLETIC
FORM AND IMMACULATE
GREEK FEATURES NOW-
OVER, DID ATTRACT AD-
MIRATION.

"THEN A MOST UNUSUAL
THING...

"AND WHEN HE REVEALED
HIS GOLDEN LOOKS
THERE AROSE A MUEMUR
OF ADMIRATION.

NOW, NOW, JOE. OBVIOUSLY
THESE PEOPLE FOLLOW THE
CUSTOMS OF THE EARLY
CHRISTIANS. WE MUSTN'T
BE IMPOLITE.

"WE WOULD LATER LEARN
THAT, BY ANAHAGGER
TRADITION, LEO HAD JUST
MARRIED THE GIRL.

"USTANE, AS WE LEARNED WAS THE GIRL'S NAME, FOLLOWED US INTO THE CAVE'S AND, IN FACT, WAS LEO'S CONSTANT SHADOW AFTER THAT."

"WE WERE LED DOWN A LONG PASSAGE AND, UPON EMERGING, MY SENSES WERE EVEN MORE ASTOUNDED."

"THESE WERE NOT NATURAL CAVES BY ANY MEANS. THESE WERE HAND CARVED."



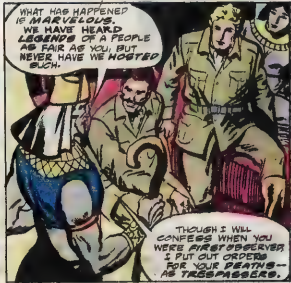
"WE WERE THEN SEATED IN A SMALL HOLLOW AND BROUGHT FOOD."

"WE WERE ALL STARVING AND NEVER, I THINK, HAVE I EATEN WITH SUCH SATISFACTION."



"WHAT HAS HAPPENED IS MARVELOUS. WE HAVE HEARD LEGENDS OF A PEOPLE AS FAIR AS YOU, BUT NEVER HAVE WE HOSTED SUCH."

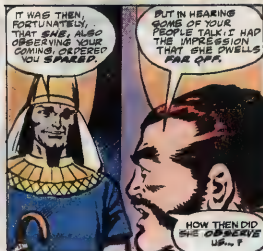
"THOUGH I WILL CONFESS WHEN YOU WERE FIRST OBSERVED, I PUT OUT ORDERS FOR YOUR DEATHS--AS TREASPASSERS."



"IT WAS THEN, FORTUNATELY, THAT SHE, ALSO OBSERVING YOUR COMING, ORDERED YOU SPARED."

"BUT IN HEARING SOME OF YOUR PEOPLE TALK, I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT SHE DWELLS FAR OFF."

"HOW THEN DID SHE OBSERVE US?"



"ARE THERE NONE IN YOUR LAND WHO CAN SEE WITHOUT EYES, HEAR WITHOUT EARS?"

"ASK NO QUESTIONS, SHE KNEW."



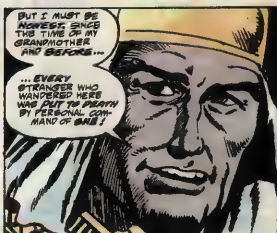


HOWEVER, I HAVE RECEIVED NO FURTHER WORD. I MUST TRAVEL TO SHE FOR CONSULTATION.

HOPEFULLY, THE JOURNEY WILL REQUIRE NO MORE THAN FIVE DAYS.



YOU WILL BE MADE AS COMFORTABLE AS POSSIBLE IN THE MEANTIME. I'VE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU. I PRAY SHE WILL SPARE YOU.



BUT I MUST BE HONEST SINCE THE TIME OF MY GRANDFATHER AND BEFORE...

...EVERY STRANGER WHO WANDERED HERE WAS PUT TO DEATH BY PERSONAL COMMAND OF SHE!



"LATER, LEFT ALONE, EXCEPT FOR 'LEO'S WOMAN' OF COURSE..."

WELL, WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT ALL, UNCLE?

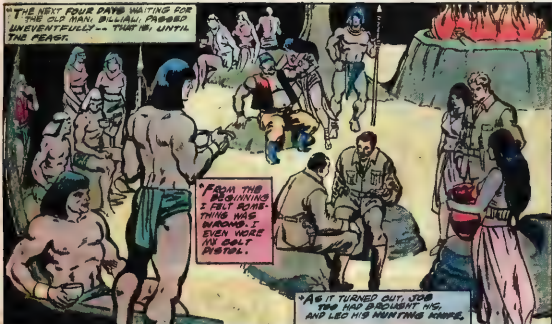
I DON'T KNOW—IT'S QUITE BAFFLING. USTANE CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING OF THIS SHE?



SHE? SHE IS OUR QUEEN, THOUGH WE RARELY SEE HER. IT IS SAID THAT SHE IS IMMORTAL AND HAS RULED THIS LAND THROUGH THE AGES.

MUCH MORE I CANNOT SAY. BUT SHE IS POWERFUL AND TO DEFEAT HER WOULD BE TO DIE.

"THE NEXT FOUR DAYS WAITING FOR THE OLD MAN, BILLIAM, PASSED UNEVENTFULLY -- THAT IS, UNTIL THE FEAST."



"FROM THE BEGINNING I FELT SOMETHING WAS WRONG. I EVEN WORE MY GOLT PISTOL."

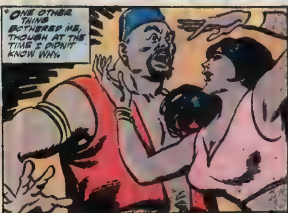
"AS IT TURNED OUT, JOE TWO HAD BROUGHT HIS, AND LEO HIS HUNTING KNIFE."

"IT WAS A CURIOUS FEAST, IN THAT, SO FAR AS I COULD SEE, THERE WAS NO FOOD."



"ONLY A STRANGE, HARM, BUT NOT UNPLEASANT FERMENTED LIQUID."

"ONE OTHER THING BOTHERED ME, THOUGH AT THE TIME I DIDN'T KNOW WHY."



"UNCUSTOMARILY, MAHOMED WAS BROUGHT TO DINE WITH US, WHEREUPON A YOUNG WOMAN BEGAN BLISTERING WITH HIM."

"YET, UP UNTIL THAT POINT THEY HAD RESPECTED MAHOMED WITH DISCREET"



"BUT NOW, MAHOMED WAS NEARLY OUT OF HIS MIND WITH FEAR."

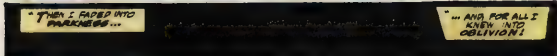
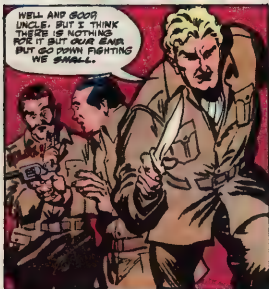
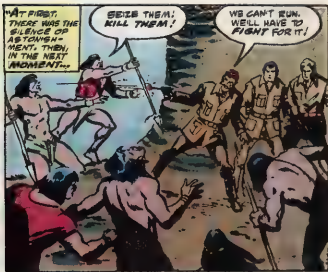
"THEN, SUPPLY, ENDECKINGLY..."



"MY GOD, SIR, THEY MEAN TO KILL MAHOMED!"

"I JUMPED UP WITHOUT HESITATION AND FROST"





"HOWEVER, I WAS SAVED FROM SUCH OBSESSION, FOR THAT FINAL SHOUT HAD BELONGED TO THE TRIBE ELDER, BULLHALL.

SO, YOU WAKEN, MY SON, IT IS GOOD. IT WOULD NOT DO FOR SUCH VALIANT WARRIORS TO PASS AWAY.



AND VALIANT YOU ALL WERE, SO FEW AGAINST SO MANY. THE YOUNG LION HERE WAS WOUNDED SEVERELY, BUT IS STRONG AND WILL LIVE.

AS FOR THE JACKALS WHO DROGGED HIM DOWN, THEY FACE THE VENGEANCE OF SHE. THEY WILL NOT DIE EASY MY SON.



BUT TELL ME, MY SON THE BARBON, HOW WERE THE MEN WITH TINY NOSES KILLED?

I WAS TOLD YOU MADE A MISTAKE AND THEY FELL DEAD.



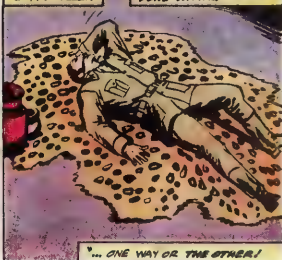
I WILL GLADLY TELL YOU... BUT WHEN WE ARE MORE RESTED, MORE, I WILL SHOW YOU, WE WILL HUNT GAME TOGETHER.

YES, REST! YOU MUST GET WELL, FOR YOU ARE BID TO THE CITY OF AOR BY COMMAND OF SHE!



"THE COMMAND OF SHE, I SAW IT, BUT IT WAS NOT A RESTFUL SLEEP.

"AND I SUSPECTED THAT RESTFUL SLEEP WOULD NOT AGAIN RETURN UNTIL THIS WHOLE AFFAIR WAS DONE WITH...



"... ONE WAY OR THE OTHER!

"IN TWO DAYS TIME WE SET OUT. I DID NOT LIKE
LEO TRAVELLING SO SOON. HE WAS STILL
VERY WEAK."

"BUT IT WAS
OBVIOUS FROM
BILLING'S CON-
STERNATION THAT
WAITING MIGHT
IMPERIL US
AND POSSIBLY
ME AND HIS
TRIBE AS WELL."

"THE FIRST DAY AND NIGHT OF OUR JOURNEY CROSSED YET
MORE HORRID MARSHLANDS WHERE HIS BODY ALREADY
WEAK, LEO CONTRACTED FEVER, BUT HE HAD TO PERSIST
ON."

"FINALLY WE EMERGED, CROSSING A BEAUTIFUL
VERFANT PLAIN, WHERE I SNOOPED A GRIFFIN
BILLION NOW WE HAVE THE HORSE THAT KILLED!"

"YET MOST IMPRESSIVE WAS THE MOUNTAIN.
WE WERE HOWEVER BANNED UPON EN-
TERING AND UNTIL WE WERE MET BY SHE'S PRIVATE
GUARD AND ESCORTED TO CHAMBERS."

"THE GRAND CITY OF
KOE WAS REAL.
OF COURSE ONE WAS.
AT THIS POINT I BEGAN
TO WONDER HOW HERE
REPUTED POWERS AND
THE FLAME OF LIFE
COULD NOT BE!"

"FOR SOME TIME WE WERE LEFT ON OUR OWN. AFTER CHANGING CLOTHES (BROUGHT WITH US FROM THE WHALEBOAT) AND EATING, I ATTENDED THE DESPERATELY FEVERISH LEO."

"AH, MY SON THE BABBOON IS NOT SO BROWN THE BABBOON AS HE WAS."



"IT IS WELL, FOR YOU HAVE BEEN SUMMONED INTO THE IMPERIAL PRESENCE OF SHE, COME."

"I SUPPOSE I SHOULD FEEL HONORED. WELL, LET'S GET ON WITH IT."



"I WAS CONDUCTED TO THIS QUEEN'S CHAMBER WHERE UPON BILLIALI DID A MOST CURIOUS THING..."

"BILLIALI, WHAT ON EARTH...?"



"DOWN, DOWN, MY SON, I SEE OF YOU. WE ARE BEFORE THE PRESENCE OF SHE!"

"IF YOU ARE NOT HUMBLE, SHE WILL SLAY YOU WHERE YOU STAND!"



"DAM! I WILL NOT! I TOO HAVE MY PRIDE!"

"THIS QUEEN HAS PUT US THROUGH SOME DISCOMFORT. BECAUSE OF HER IMPATIENCE, LEO MAY BE DYING OF FEVER. NO! I WILL NOT 'HUMBLE' MYSELF!"



"WELL, I MAY SAY THIS VALIANT FRONT IN THE FACE OF THE UNKNOWN FAGED QUICKLY AS A LINDEN-WRAPPED FIGURE STEPPED OUT.

"SHE!"

WHY ARE YOU SO FRIGHTENED STRANGER? DOES MY PRESENCE INSPIRE SUCH?

IT IS YOUR BEAUTY WHICH MAKES ME FEAR, O QUEEN!

I SEE THAT MEN STILL KNOW HOW TO BEGUILF WOMEN WITH FALSE WORDS.

BUT, COME, I FORGIVE YOUR LIE. THERE IS MUCH I WOULD LEARN FROM YOU.

"BILIALI WAS CURTLY SENT FROM THE ROOM. THEN...

AND WHAT DO THEY CALL YOU, STRANGER?

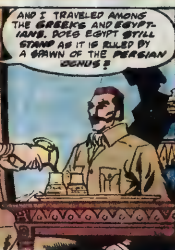
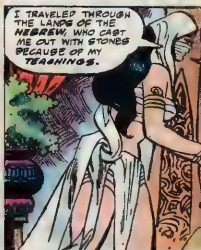
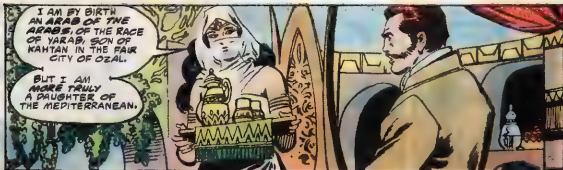
THE AMAHAGGER CALL ME 'BABBON' FOR REASONS THAT SHOULD BE SELF-EVIDENT. BUT IN MY OWN LAND I AM CALLED HOLLY.

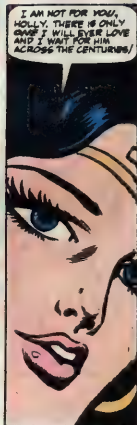
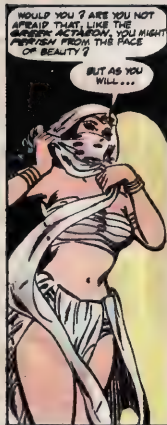
HOLLY? I LIKE THAT. PLEASE, SIT-- I WOULD NOT SEE YOU CRAWL BEFORE ME. I AM WEARY OF SLAVES: THEIR WORKSHIP AND THEIR TERROR.

BUT TELL ME, HOLLY, HOW DO YOU COME TO SPEAK ARABIC?

I HAVE STUDIED IT, AS WELL AS LATIN AND GREEK O QUEEN.

ARE...YOU THEN ARABIC?





"I AM NOT SURE EXACTLY HOW I FOUND MY WAY BACK TO MY QUARTERS. MY MIND WAS RATHER IN A DAZE.



"BUT AS THE NIGHT PRESSED ON, MY HEAD WAS TOO PRE-OCCUPIED TO ALLOW SLEEP.

"BUT STILL I COULDN'T SLEEP, SO I CONTINUED WANDERING EVER DEEPER INTO THE LABYRINTH OF CAVES, SCARCELY NOTING WHERE I WAS GOING.



"SO I BEGAN TO WANDER UP AND DOWN, THINKING.



"I TRIED EVERYTHING BUT I COULD NOT GET THIS MODERN DAY CIRCE OUT OF MY MIND.

"GOD, I THINK I WAS IN LOVE WITH HER!

"THEN, SUDDENLY MY LAMP WENT DARK. I HAD FOOLISHLY WANDERED TOO LONG FOR MY SUPPLY OF OIL.



"AT ONE POINT I PIERCED IN ON LEGS.



"HE WAS NOT WELL AT ALL, AND POOR USTANE SEEMED BESIDE HERSELF WITH GRIEF.

"IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN BLACK AS PITCH, BUT AT THE END OF A LONG PASSAGE...

"...A LIGHT, AND A VOICE.



"IT WAS SHE. AGAIN HER
FACE CAUGHT MY EYE,
BUT NOT THIS TIME BY
FORCE OF HER BEAUTY.

"THOUGH THE BEAUTY WAS
THERE, IT WAS TWISTED BY
AGONY AND RAGE.

CURSE HER!
ACCURSED BE THE
MEMORY OF THE
EGYPTIAN!



CURSE HER, THE DAUGHTER
OF THE NILE - BECAUSE OF HER
BEAUTY AND BECAUSE SHE HELD
MY BE-LOVED FROM ME.



ALAS, WHERE IS
THE USE OF CURSING?
WHO CAN REACH
THOSE WHO SLEEP
BENEATH THE WINGS
OF POWER?



TWO THOUSAND YEARS I
HAVE WAITED AND ENDURED,
BUT THOUGH TIME CREEPS EVER
ONWARD, MEMORY HAS NOT
LESSENED.

MY LOVE
MY KALLI-
KRATES!
WHEN SHALL
YOU
RETURN?



OH, WHY COULD I NOT
HAVE DIED WITH YOU, I
WHO SLEW YOU?

BUT I MUST
ONCE MORE LOOK
UPON YOUR FACE,
MY LOVE.



WITH THAT, SHE BEGAN TO
UNWRAP THE DREADFUL
CORPSE - A SPECTACLE I WAS
NOT ABOUT TO WITNESS.



BESIDES WHICH, I MOST
CERTAINLY DID NOT WANT
TO BE CAUGHT SPYING.

"IN THE MORNING, I
WOKE GROGGILY, FOR
IT HAD TAKEN LONG TO
PICK MY WAY BACK
THROUGH THE DARK.



"AFTER LOOKING IN ON
LEO, WHO IN NO WAY
SHOWED IMPROVEMENT,
I WERE ONCE MORE SUM-
MONED TO SHE..."



"AH, HOLLY, COME!
SIT AT MY FEET AND SEE
THE JUSTICE OF SHE UPON
THOSE WHO DID WRONGS
YOU AND DISOBEY ME!"



"DO YOU, ON MY
GUEST RECOGNIZE
THESE MEN?"



"THAT I DO. IT
WAS THEY WHO SET
TO KILL OUR SERVANT
AND DID AFTERWARDS
TRY TO KILL US."

"YOU HAVE
HEARD. HAVE
YOU ANYTHING
TO SAY?"



"THERE IS NOTHING
YOU COULD SAY, DOGS
AND SERPENTS!"

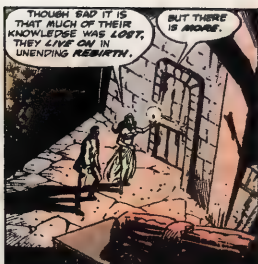
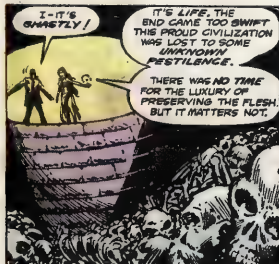


"YOU HAVE
DISOBEYED
THE WILL OF
SHE!"

"YOU SHALL BE TAKEN
TO THE CAVE OF TORTURE,
AND ANY WHO STILL LIVE ON
THE MORROW'S DAWN
SHALL THEN BE SLAIN!"







NO, THIS IS MINE, THOUGH MUCH OF WHAT I'VE LEARNED HAS COME FROM THEM.

BUT FEAR NOT, HOLLY, FOR I CAN CURE THIS LEO.



I HAD HOPED HIS FEVER WOULD PASS OF ITS OWN -- THAT IS ALWAYS BETTER

GO. STAY BY THE YOUTH. I WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY. AND HOLLY -- CALL ME AYESHA, FOR THAT BE MY TRUE NAME.



"AND WHEN I RETURNED...

MASTER HOLLY, MYSTARS, I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE FOR YOU.



JOB / WHAT IS IT, MAN?

ALAS, I FEAR YOUNG LEO IS IN HIS DEATH THROES. THERE IS NO HOPE FOR HIM, SIR.

DEAR GOD. IF HE CAN ONLY HOLD ON, AYESHA PROMISER...



AYESHA PROMISED AND AYESHA COMES!

GOD SAVE US, MASTER! THE ANGEL COMES ALREADY TO ESCORT THE DEAD!



OH, RUBBISH, JOB. SHE IS NOTHING MORE THAN OUR HOST, THE QUEEN, WHO COMES TO SAVE LEO.



HOLLY, BID YOUR SERVANT AND THIS GIRL AMMY. I WILL NOT HAVE UNDERLINGS WITNESS MY MIRACLES.





WELL, I SHALL NOT LOSE HIM A SECOND TIME TO HESITATION. HE WILL RECOVER SHORTLY.

OH MY DEAR, SWEET KALLIKRATES. HOW I HAVE LONGED TO FEEL WARMTH IN YOUR FLESH!



"THEN DID THE PRIESTESS-QUEEN TURN AND CALL FOR HER GUARD..."

THE WOMAN USTANE--FIND HER AND SLAY HER!

AYESHA, NO! YOU CAN'T!



THE EVER-MERCIFUL HOLLY! SO BE IT. SPARE THE WOMAN--BUT GEE THAT SHE IS BANISHED FROM THE CITY!

I GO NOW, HOLLY. ON THE MORROW SHALL BE A RANGE TO CELEBRATE--HIS RECOVERY.



AND HE RECOVERED INDEED, WITH SPEED AS I HAD NEVER KNOWN. BY MORNING HE HAD FULLY HEALED.

*AYESHA AT ONCE TOOK TO BRIDING HIM. TELLING HIM FALSELY THAT USTANE HAD GONE TO HER OWN PEOPLE OF HER OWN CHOICE.

"I COULD SAY NOTHING."

OF COURSE I KNEW
THE 'SPELL' SHE
COULD CAST OVER MEN.
SHE HAD REVEALED
HER FACE TO LEO
AND HE COULD NOT
LEAVE HER SIDE.



"AND THEN CAME THE DANCE, AND WHAT A
SPECTACLE IT WAS, SAVAGE BEYOND ALL THIS.

"BUT SUDDENLY, JARRINGLY...

STOP THIS
DANCE AT ONCE!



YOU! STEP
FORWARD!

USTANE!

YES, MY LORD, SHE
ORDERED ME AWAY BUT
I COULD NOT, FOR I
LOVE YOU AND WOULD
RATHER DIE THAN LIVE
WITHOUT YOU!





"WE WERE LED DOWN END-
LESS PASSAGES AND
STONE STEPS TO THE VERY
PLACE I HAD, THAT ONE
NIGHT, HEARD AYESHA
CURSING.

I HAVE SLEPT HERE
WITH ONLY A CLOAK FOR
COMFORT FOR TWO THOU-
SAND YEARS, AND
WHY?

TO WATCH OVER
THE VESSEL OF HE WHO
WOULD ONE DAY RETURN
TO FULFILL MY LOVE.



NOW YOU SHALL
SEE! LET THE DEAD
AND THE LIVING
MEET!



NO! NO!
IT CANNOT
BE! IT
CAN'T!

NO, IT IS REAL.
IT IS MERELY BEYOND
YOUR COMPREHENSION
-- NOW.

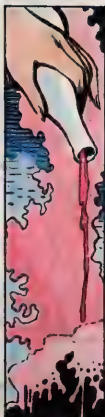


YOU ARE KALLIKRATES
-- LIVING NOW AND NEWLY
REBORN -- BUT KALLIKRATES!

I HAVE MERELY
TURNED BACK A
PAGE IN YOUR
BOOK OF LIFE
AND ALLOWED YOU
TO SEE WHAT IS
WRITTEN THERE.



BUT NOW THERE IS
NO FURTHER NEED
FOR THE PAGE UPON
WHICH IT IS WRIT.



NOW SO, PREPARE. THE TIME HAS COME THAT WE BE JOINED TOGETHER, YOU AND I, AND THAT AT LONG LAST YOU TOO BE DOUSED IN THE FLAME OF LIFE.



"AND SO WE DID, TELLING JOE ONLY AS MUCH AS WAS NECESSARY AND NOT WORRY HIM UNDULY. HE WOULD FOLLOW US TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. GOOD FELLOW



"AS FOR LEO, DO NOT BLAME HIM FOR NOT FLEEING THOUGH MESMERIZED, HE DID IN HIS OWN WAY LOVE AYESHA.



"AND WHO, GIVEN WHAT RATE HAD DELIVERED TO HIM, WOULD TURN THEIR BACKS ON IT.

"AND I? I HAD BEEN LEO'S GUARDIAN FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS. I WOULD NOT STOP NOW

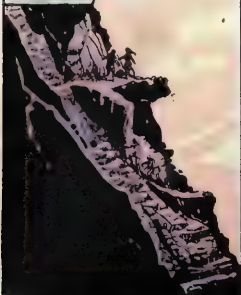


"AND SO WE HEADED UP BEYOND THE CITY OF KOR TO THE VERY HEIGHTS OF THE MOUNTAIN ITSELF -- TO THE PLACE OF THE FLAME OF THE SPIRIT OF LIFE!



"YET, STRANGELY, I FELT AS IF LIFE WERE ABOUT TO END!

"THE TEMPLE OF THIS
FLAME WAS A CAVERN
AT THE VERY SUMMIT
OF THIS GREAT HOLLOWED
OUT MOUNTAIN."



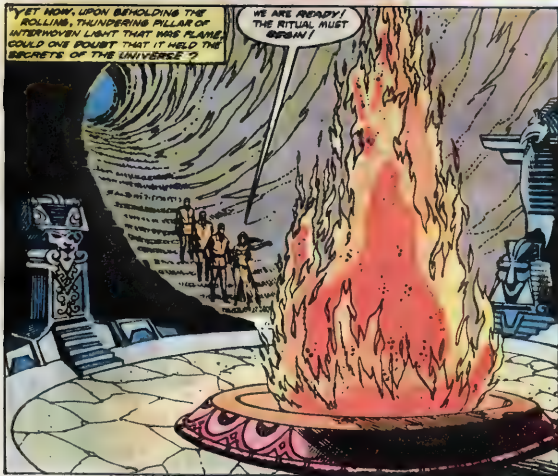
"THE ROUTE WAS TREACHEROUS
ENOUGH TO SUGGEST THAT IF,
INDEED, IMMORTALITY COULD
BE ATTAINED..."



"ONE HAD TO RISK
DEATH TO DO SO!"

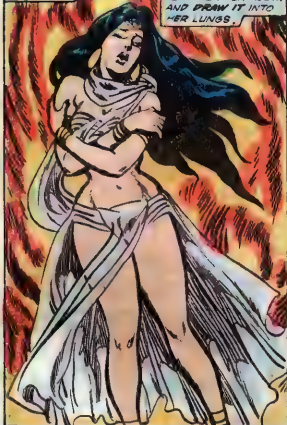
"YET NOW, UPON BEHOLDING THE
ROLLING, THUNDERING PILLAR OF
INTERWOVEN LIGHT THAT WAS FLAME,
COULD ONE DOUBT THAT IT HELD THE
SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE?"

WE ARE READY!
THE RITUAL MUST
BEGIN!





"AYESHA STEPPED INTO THE FLAME. IT LAPPED AROUND HER AND I SAW THE ESSENCE RUN UP HER FORM."



"I SAW HER LIFT IT WITH BOTH HANDS AS THOUGH IT WERE WATER. I EVEN SAW HER OPEN HER MOUTH AND DRAW IT INTO HER LUNGS."

"BUT SUDDENLY-- MORE SUDDENLY THAN I CAN EXPRESS--AN INDESCRIBABLE CHANGE CAME OVER HER."



"THE SMILE VANISHED AND, IN ITS STEAD, THERE CAME A DRY, HARD LOOK--"

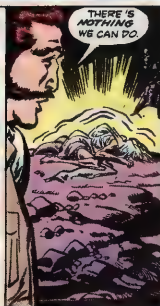


"-- THE ROUNDED FACE SEEMED TO GROW MORE PINCHED. THE EYES TOO LOST THEIR GLOW."



"AND THEN THE FLAMES DIED!"





"WHAT HAD BROUGHT THIS SHOCKING CHANGE ABOUT? HAD THE LIFE-GIVING NATURE OF THE FLAME VARIED?"

"OR WAS IT THAT A BODY, ONCE CHARGED, COULD NOT REPEAT THE PROCESS?"

UNCLE!
QUICKLY!

"BUT, WHATEVER HAPPENED, IT WAS DECISIVE -- AND FINAL!"

DEAD! IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR THE OLD BOY. PERHAPS HE IS THE WISEST OF US ALL.

WE STILL HAVE TO FIND SOME WAY OUT OF HERE. HE'S FOUND HIS.

BUT LOOK -- THE ROCKSLIDE CREATED OUR EXIT!

FINE, LAD, WE ESCAPE THE MOUNTAIN. BUT, UNLESS MY EYES DECEIVE ME, THAT IS NOT CAMBRIDGE SPREADING OUT BEFORE US.

WE HAVE THE VAST INTERIOR OF AN UNEXPLORED CONTINENT TO TRY TO FIND OUR WAY THROUGH, PROVIDING WE AREN'T ATTACKED BY MAN OR ANIMALS OR FEVER!

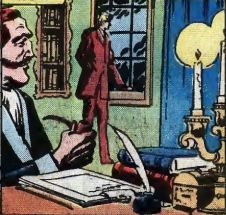
BUT THEN, THERE'S NOTHING ELSE FOR IT, WOT?

"FOR THE REST, IT IS OF NO INTEREST TO SCIENCE
OR THE OUTSIDE WORLD. WE FINALLY, AFTER
MANY TRIALS, SET FOOT IN SOUTHAMPTON.



"WE THEN RETURNED TO THE ROOMS AT CAMBRIDGE.

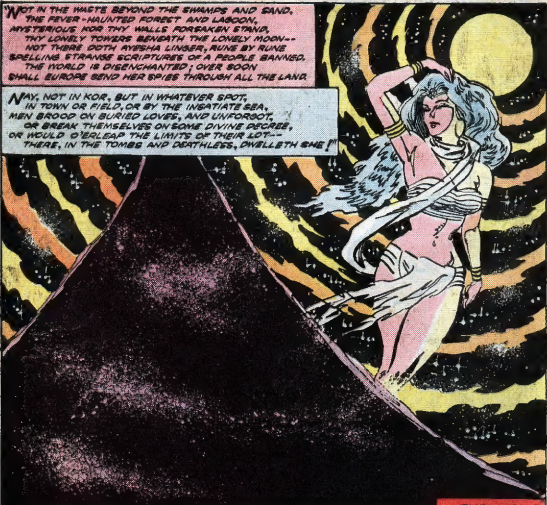
"IS LEO REALLY A REINCARNATION OF
KALLIKRATES? YOU MUST FORM
YOUR OWN OPINION. I DO HAVE
MINE --



"-- I BELIEVE, AS REGARDS LEO, SHE
MADE NO MISTAKE!"

"NOT IN THE WASTE BEYOND THE SWAMPS AND SAND,
THE FEVER-HAUNTED FOREST AND LAGOON,
MYSTERIOUS NOR THY WALLS FOREGIVEN STAND,
THY LONELY TOWERS BENEATH THE LONELY MOON--
NOT THERE DOOTH AYTESHA LINGER, RUINE BY RUINE
SPELLING STRANGE SCRIPTURES OF A PEOPLE BANNED.
THE WORLD IS DISENCHANTED; OVER SOON
SHALL EUROPE SEND HER SPIES THROUGH ALL THE LAND.

NAY, NOT IN KOR, BUT IN WHATEVER SPOT,
IN TOWN OR FIELD, OR BY THE INSATIATE SEA,
MEN BROOD ON BURIED LOVES, AND UNFORGOT,
OR BREAK THEMSELVES ON SOME DIVINE DECREE,
OR WOULD O'ERLEAP THE LIMITS OF THEIR LOT--
THERE, IN THE TOMBS AND DEATHLESS, DWELLETH SHE!"



• THE END •

H. Rider Haggard



Sanita Jr.

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